

PATENT
HB
9/27/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on September 17, 2002.

Marsha Confort
Signature

Applicant : Yoshikazu Umezu, et al.
Application No. : 09/308,607
Filed : May 20, 1999
Title : METHOD OF PRODUCTION OF CERAMICS

Grp./Div. : 1615
Examiner : Robert M. Joynes

Docket No. : 34650/DBP/A400

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
September 17, 2002

Commissioner:

The September 3, 2002 official Office action at page 3 rejects claims 1-5 and 1-13 as being obvious over Urist in view of three additional references. However, the two claim groups overlap and, therefore, it is unclear as to the actual claims to which the Examiner is applying the references. It is requested that the September 3, 2002 official Office action be reissued clarifying the two claim groups referenced on page 3.

Additionally, it is noted with appreciation that the Examiner, at the top of page 2, acknowledged applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed August 3, 1999 and the LETTER REQUESTING ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF IDS dated May 29, 2001. However, applicants enclose herewith a copy of the FORM PTO-1449 listing the references

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accompanying the August 3, 1999 Information Disclosure Statement, as well as a copy of the IDS with FORM PTO-1449 filed on August 28, 2001 by Certificate of Mailing. It is requested that the references in the FORM PTO-1449 for the August 3, 1999 and August 28, 2001 Information Disclosure Statements be initialed so as to confirm that each reference has been considered.

In view of the ambiguity as to the claims that are being rejected, it is requested that the due date for a response be reset with the response to this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By *D Bruce Prout*

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DBP/mc

Enclosures: August 3, 1999 FORM PTO-1449
August 28, 2001 IDS with FORM PTO-1449

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